

drum, the Vermont Humanities Council has become a unique and independent actor promoting the importance of literacy as a means of pursuing the humanities.

In honor of this twenty-fifth anniversary, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Vermont Council on the Humanities for a job well done. I would also like to offer a special note of gratitude to Victor Swenson and the Council's extraordinary Board of Directors. Victor's leadership and the commitment of the Board has made our Council a shining example of excellence. Keep up the good work.●

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, as we enter the twilight of the Twentieth Century, we can look back at the immense multitude of achievements that led to the ascension of the United States of America as the preeminent nation in modern history. We owe this title as world's greatest superpower in large part to the twenty-five million men and women who served in our armed services and who defended the principles and ideals of our nation.

Before we embark upon the Twenty-First Century, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will celebrate an historic milestone. On September 29, the VFW will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization's founding. For over one hundred years, the VFW has supported our armed forces from the battlefields to the home front. From letter-writing campaigns in WWI to "welcome home" rallies after the Persian Gulf War to care packages sent to Bosnia, the VFW continues to take pride in supporting American troops overseas.

The VFW's support for our nation's armed forces has been exemplary over the last one hundred years, but it is the VFW's work with our nation's veterans that has been most impressive. The original intention of the VFW, in fact, was to ensure that the veterans of the Spanish-American war would not be forgotten and that they received medical care and support in return for their service and sacrifice. The VFW's motto, "Honor The Dead By Honoring The Living", resonates to this day and will carry forth into the next century. Since organizing the first national veterans service office in 1919, to today's nationwide network of service offices, the VFW provides the assistance veterans need in order to obtain much-deserved benefits.

To celebrate this prestigious occasion, a resolution, S. J. Resolution 21, has been introduced in the United States Senate designating September 29, 1999 as "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day", and the President of the United States is authorized

and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon all Government agencies and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities. I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution which honors the VFW's recognition of military service and remembrance of the sacrifices made in our nation's defense. I feel this resolution presents an opportunity to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the more than 2,000,000 veterans of the armed forces represented by the VFW, and to all the individuals who have served in the armed forces.

Throughout my service in Congress, I have long appreciated the leadership of both the South Dakota VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary for their input on a variety of issues impacting veterans and their families in recent years. Their insight and efforts have proven very valuable to me and my staff, and I commend each and every one of them for their leadership on issues of importance to all veterans of the armed forces. I was honored to have the VFW's strong support when I offered my amendment to increase veterans health care in this year's budget to \$3 billion. Even though it wasn't the full amount of my amendment, the final Budget Resolution contained a \$1.7 billion increase above what the Clinton Administration had requested for veterans health care. This never would have been possible without the grassroots support of the VFW.

Mr. President, as Americans, we should never forget the men and women who served our nation with such dedication and patriotism. I close my remarks by offering my gratitude and support for all the achievements performed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For a century, this organization has been the standard bearer in the representation of our veterans, as well as their undying patronage to our armed forces and support for the maintenance of a strong national defense.●

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO J. PALUMBO

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Antonio J. (Tony) Palumbo, a coal miner from Western Pennsylvania who humbly represents the generous spirit of community.

President and owner of the New Shawmut Mining company, Mr. Palumbo was born in Pennsylvania on June 14, 1906 and actively serves as a Trustee for La Roche College, Duquesne University, Carlow College, Gannon College, the Villa Nazareth School in Rome, Italy, and the Mayo Clinic Foundation for Medical Education and Research. He has also developed unique relationships with the Catholic Diocese of Erie, Elk County Christian High School, the Nicaraguan-American Nursing Collaboration, the

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Holy Family Institute and the Boy Scouts of St. Marys, PA.

Throughout his years of involvement at these institutions, Mr. Palumbo has gained the admiration and respect of the many students that he has come in contact with. His influence in their lives will be felt for many years to come.

Mr. Palumbo was recently presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives. His efforts have helped build educational and health care facilities, endow research, provide scholarships, deliver care to the poor and support community initiatives. As varied as each of these causes are, they all reflect Tony Palumbo's compassion for the needs of others and his commitment to using his time and talents to enrich the lives of those around him.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Tony Palumbo for the leadership and compassion that he has portrayed, as well as the platform that he has created for motivating the stewardship of others.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, on May 24, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed into law the Rogers Act, establishing a unified corps of career diplomats to represent the United States abroad. Based on the principles of professionalism, non-partisanship and merit-based promotion, thus was born the modern foreign service.

This year we join in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the foreign service. Over the years there have been many changes: it has become more diverse, more specialized, and has been called to deal with an ever-expanding list of issues. While this milestone is an occasion for celebration and congratulations, there are some sobering reminders of the task that still awaits us. 1998 saw the worst attack on American diplomats in history, with two tragic bombings that resulted in the deaths of over 220 persons, twelve of them Americans. Here in Washington, we continue to contend with budget cuts that handicap the ability of our foreign service officers to perform their duties safely and effectively.

On the occasion of this anniversary, Secretary Albright hosted a dinner at the State Department as a tribute to the efforts of the brave men and women who have served over the past three-quarters of a century. In her speech, she challenged the unfortunate and inaccurate stereotypes of the foreign service and emphasized the urgency of providing adequate resources to promote U.S. interests abroad. I strongly agree with the thrust of her remarks, and I ask that the full text of her statement be printed in the RECORD.